

'Our Old Boys'

Remembering those Devonport High School for Boys
students who fought in World War One



By Oliver Elford and Lewis Dickens

Submitted as part of the Malcolm Doolin Memorial Award for Local History Research



The onset of World War One

For decades, the Austro-Hungarian Empire had been a powerful influence in the heart of Europe. Relying on a historical legacy, their house kept stability, order, and peace. However, not everyone bowed to this power.

In the summer of 1914, the Archduke Franz Ferdinand of the Austro-Hungarian empire visited Sarajevo, unaware of seven assassins awaiting him. Two shots were fired by Gavrilo Princip, resulting in the death of the Archduke and his wife. These two deaths, in the Balkans, caused a shockwave causing conflicts and testing allegiances, which ultimately led to the start of World War One in July 1914, and the death of millions of people.

What caused World War One?

Watch this two minute video.



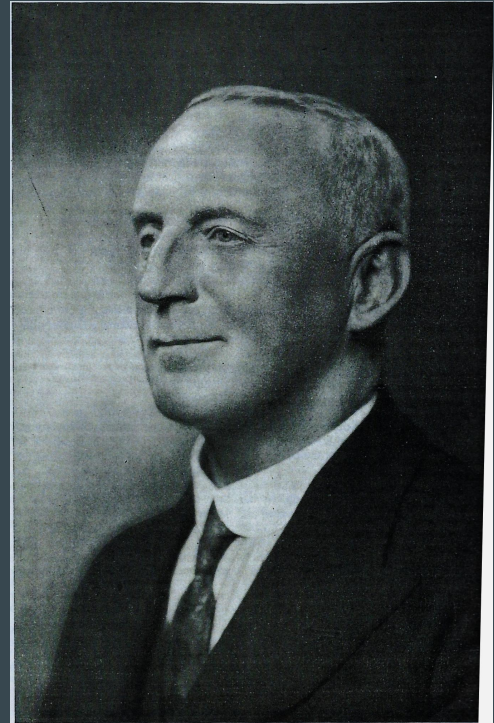
Meanwhile in Plymouth ...

Devonport High School for Boys (DHSB) was founded in January 1896 with the intention of training young men for civil service, including a career in the Navy.

At the outbreak of World War One, many boys studying at DHSB responded to the call of Field Marshal Kitchener and enlisted.

In February 1915, the DHSB Headmaster, Arthur Treseder, addressed the school population at Speech Day saying ...

‘The leaflet that was placed in your hand, contains the names of over 100 old-DHSians now serving their King and country.’



Arthur F. Treseder, MA, 1906-32.

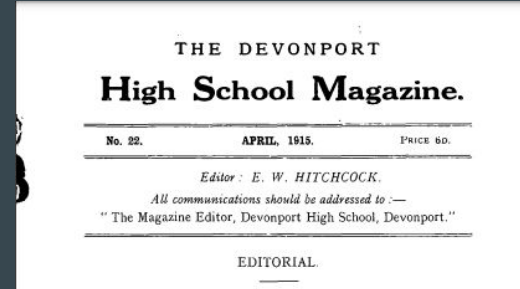
Arthur Treseder

Source: DHSB @ 125 pg 18

Meanwhile in Plymouth cont'd. ...

Alongside the students who had 'signed-up' DHSB was also keen to support and encourage further enlistments and a cadet corps, linked to the 5th (Prince of Wales) Battalion of the Devonshire Regiment, was set-up at the school. By the end of 1915, there were 70 boys between the ages of 13 and 17 enrolled.

Over the Christmas break of 1915/16, a dozen members of the cadet corps volunteered to guard sentry points around the country to give regular troops much needed time at home.



Source: The
Devonport
High School
Magazine No.
22 April 1915
pg 5

An extremely noteworthy feature is the introduction of a Cadet Corps as a part of our School organisation. The idea, we

ject. The School has enthusiastically welcomed the innovation, and when, after the cessation of hostilities, the Cadets obtain official recognition as an Officers' Training Corps, they will constitute an 'efficient force, which, at any future crisis, will be "not only willing, but ready" at a moment's notice to play their part in the active defence of our native-land.



'DHS Cadet
Corps'
Source: DHSB
@ 125 pg 23

Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori It is sweet and proper to die for one's country

The Latin phrase from Roman poet Horace was used as a motto for many recruitment speeches (and sadly later many more memorials). It is likely some of the DHSians heard this and this is what encouraged them to enlist.

Until December 1915, the school magazine recorded those students who had enlisted.

In total 156 names are recorded, although it is likely more students enlisted.



Source: The
Devonport
High School
Magazine No.
21 December
1914 pg 15

ROLL OF HONOUR.	
The following list of old D.H.S.-ians on Active Service is necessarily incomplete, and the Head Master will be glad to receive the names of other old D.H.S.-ians on Active Service at home or abroad :—	
BATH, A. G., Assistant Paymaster, R.N.	
BLACK, S., Canadian Contingent.	
BISHOP, G. J., Territorial Army.	
BLIGHT, E. S., Engineer-Lieutenant, R.N.	
BOUGHTON, R., Midshipman, R.N.R.	
BRYAN, R. A., Midshipman, R.N.	
BUCKMASTER, F. H., Engineer-Lieutenant, R.N.	
BUDGE, J. G., Engineer-Lieutenant-Commander, R.N.	
BUDGE, J. S., Engineer-Lieutenant, R.N.	
BURT, G. G. P., Engineer-Lieutenant, R.N.	
BURT, H., Engineer-Lieutenant-Commander, R.N.	
CARLISLE, F. S., Engineer-Lieutenant-Commander, R.N.	
CAVANAGH, F. G., Assistant Paymaster, R.N.	
CAVANAGH, H. G., Assistant Paymaster, R.N.	
CAVANAGH, J. D. M., Paymaster, R.N.	
CHARIG, E. B., Assistant Constructor, R.C.N.C.	
CLARKE, FRANCIS, Lieutenant, R.N.R.	
CLARKE, W. H., Engineer-Lieutenant-Commander, R.N.	
COCK, E., Assistant Constructor, R.C.N.C.	
CRANG, K., Lance Corporal, 3rd D.C.L.I. (T). Lieut.	
DALLAS, O. C. D., Engineer-Lieutenant, R.N.	
DAVY, R. C., Territorial Army.	
DAWE, T. R., Lieutenant, Indian Army.	
DEACON, J. L., Engineer-Lieutenant, R.N.	
FRANKLIN, R. H. G., Assistant Clerk, R.N.	
GEDDES, J., 5th Devons (T.).	
GREGORY, L., Engineer-Lieutenant, R.N.	
A. Landrey (T)	
J. Lang Devon Yeom	

Where did DHSB Old Boys serve?:

Theaters of war included:

- Gallipoli and the Dardanelles
- Sea Battles inc. The Battle of Jutland
- The Western Front inc. the Arras Offensive, the Battle of Cambrai, the Battle of Somme
- The Middle East
- The Final Push

DHSians served in the Army, Navy and Royal Flying Corps



Gallipoli and the Dardanelles

On the 25th April 1915 Allied troops landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey, which at that time was controlled by the Ottomans who were fighting with the Axis forces. The Gallipoli campaign was the land-based element of a strategy, by the Allies, intended to allow Allied ships to pass through the Dardanelles, capture Constantinople (now Istanbul) and ultimately remove Ottoman Turkey out of the war.

The aims of the Allies was to weaken Axis powers, support Russia and promote British rule in the Middle East. Success hinged on Ottoman-Turkish opposition crumbling. However, this did not happen and the Allies experienced great losses and withdrew.

DHSB Roll of Honour

E J L Perry 2nd May 1915 Lieutenant Border Regiment KIA at the Dardanelles while attempting to save an officer

Laurence Carlton 9 August 1915 Royal Army Medical Corps KIA while attending a wounded man at Gallipoli

Joseph Howard Body 14th August 1915 Assistant Purser Royal Navy drowned in the Aegean Sea H.M.S. Royal Edward (torpedoed)

Horace George Stumbles October 20th 1915 Corporal 25th Battalion Australian Imperial Forces. at the Dardanelles, died of wounds

Sydney Arthur Black 8th January 1916 Flight Sub-Lieutenant at the Dardanelles



Sea Battles - The Battle of Jutland

The operations in the North Sea were of vital importance as these convoys kept Britain in the war, providing supplies and food.

The Battle of Jutland was the largest naval battle of the First World War, and was the only full size conflict between the British grand fleet and the German high seas fleet. The battle was led by Admiral Sir John Jellicoe.

The British lost 14 ships and 6,000 men and the Germans lost 11 ships and 2,500 men. Tactically the battle was inconclusive, but strategically it was a British success, ensuring the blockade of German ports remained intact and demonstrating British naval supremacy.

DHSB Roll of Honour

Arthur George Floyd 1st June 1916 Royal Navy

George Rome Hall 1st June 1916 Lieutenant Royal Naval Reserves

Clifford Rider 1st June 1916 Sub-Lieutenant Royal Navy

Arthur Kingdon Stephens Assistant Constructor Royal Navy

Maurice James Rogers Sharp 9th August 1917 Engineer Lieutenant Commander Royal Navy died at sea sunk by a German Torpedo from UB16



The Western Front

The Western Front, stretching from the North Sea to Switzerland, was marked by trench warfare, protracted stalemates, high loss of life and widespread devastation across Northern France and Belgium.

Records show that DHSians were involved in the Arras Offensive, The Battle of the Somme and Cambrai.



The Western Front
Source: www.greatwar.co.uk

The Battle of the Somme

The Battle of the Somme took place from July 1st to November 18th, 1916. Its aim was to relieve pressure on the French at Verdun and break the deadlock of the Western Front. The Battle of the Somme was a large scale offensive against the Germans.

Devastating losses were experienced by all sides. In the first day it is estimated that British forces experienced nearly 60,000 casualties. Despite this only minimal gains (6 miles) were made over the next five months.

DHSB Roll of Honour

Horace Liberty Rundle (19) 20th July 1916
Second Lieutenant Devonshire Regiment KIA



Middle East

The Allies, including Arab factions, incited actions in the Middle East to engage the Ottoman Empire (Axis) in conflicts away from the Western Front.

The British campaigns in the Middle East weakened the Ottoman Empire and secured vital imperial interests in the Middle East e.g., oil, access to the Suez Canal and trade.

DHSB Roll of Honour

William Courtman Peters (24) 8th November 1917 Sergeant London Regiment (Prince of Wales' own Civil Service rifles as part of The Egyptian Expeditionary Force) KIA Palestine



The Arras Offensive

An allied offensive against Germany masterminded by General Robert Nivelle who had recently commanded at Verdun. The Nivelle Offensive called for a French attack in the Aisne region, supported by British action at Arras, Vimy Ridge and Bullecourt on the Hindenburg Line.

The British operations at Arras achieved impressive advances in the early stages but the French action ended in catastrophe. Their struggle for the Chemin des Dames Ridge resulted in heavy casualties and proved so damaging to the army's morale that there were mutinies.

DHSB Roll of Honour

Percival Graham Statton (23) April 1917 Second Lieutenant the Kings (Liverpool Regiment) K.I.A

William Henry Bidgood (22) 4th May 1917 Private Royal Warwickshire Regiment 2nd Brigade K.I.A

Stanley Vingoe Clarke (27) 6th May 1917 Lieutenant 5th Battalion Devonshire Regiment KIA

Albert Lear Soper (26) 9th May 1917 Private Royal Fusiliers, probably injured in Arleux died of wounds

Phillip Tierney May (34) 28th May 1917 Private London Regiment (London Scottish) KIA

Sidney George White (27) 9th June 1917 Sergeant 1st Battalion Devonshire Regiment Died of wounds

John Henry Winchester (19) 11th June 1917 Pioneer Corps of Royal Engineers KIA



Cambrai and other German Actions on the Western Front

The Battle of Cambrai, which commenced on the 20th November 1917, was the first large scale tank offensive and changed the course of modern warfare. In the beginning of the attack significant gains were made, but after five miles over half of the tanks were out of operation.

By the 28th November the British had reached a strong position on Bournon Ridge but two days later the Germans launched a counter attack using shock troops and forced the British to retreat. Although Cambrai held a small amount of tactical importance it heralded in the new era of tactics used in 1918.

DHSB Roll of Honour

Loftus John McDonnell (32) 30th November 1917
Private Irish Guards 1st Battalion KIA Battle of Cambrai

Arthur Bayly Terrell Thomas (19) 30th December 1917
Able seaman Royal Naval Volunteer reserve
KIA Battle of Welsh Ridge

Other German Actions on the Western Front

Frederick William Abbott Perry (23) 17th February 1917
Lieutenant Royal Marine Infantry
KIA



German Actions on the Western Front

Operation Michael was a major German offensive which kickstarted the Spring offensive on the 21st March 1918. It was launched in the vicinity of Saint-Quentin in France. This offensive caused the Allies to retreat 40 miles.

The intent of this offensive from the Germans was to cut supply lines and force the French back to Paris. The first troops that Germans sent forward were the Stormtroopers which attacked the overmanned outposts and caused heavy losses, however due to Allied fighting Operation Michael was a failure.

DHSB Roll of Honour

Leslie Clarence Coombe (22) 25th March 1918
2nd Lieutenant Duke of Cornwall's light infantry
KIA

William Henry Gollop (21) 9th April 1918
Bombardier Royal Garrison Artillery KIA

Felix Ernest Fehrenback (25) 18th April 1918
Sergeant 1st Battalion Devonshire Regiment KIA

George Westlake (19) 7th May 1918 Private Royal
Berkshire Regiment KIA



The Final Push

The Final Push was the 100 day offensive that went from August 8th 1918 to the Armistice, 11th November 1918. The main aim of this offensive was to regain the land lost in the Spring Offensive and force the end of the war.

The end of this offensive concluded the 'war to end all wars'.

During World War One Britain and her Empire lost over 1 million men, killed or missing and we also do not forget that Germany lost almost 1.7 million men.

DHSB Roll of Honour

William Howard Bosworthwick (19) 7th November 1918 Second Lieutenant 5th Battalion Devonshire Regiment KIA Battle of Sambre

Edgar John Hallett (25) 27th December 1918 Sergeant Royal Engineers probably injured liberating the Belgian city of Tournai where he died in Hospital Notre-Dame



Died from Injuries

DHSB Roll of Honour

Harold Dewdney (21) 3rd April 1917 Pioneer
Royal Engineers died at home in England

Albert William Hallett (26) 11th December 1917
Private East Surrey Regiment died at home in
Exeter

Stanley Albert Reynolds (25) 8th August 1918
Gunner Royal Garrison Artillery died at home in
England

Harold Duncan Grant (18) 27th March 1919
Second Lieutenant Devonshire Regiment died
from wounds in the Military Hospital Boulogne

Jethro Percival Crang (28) 18th March 1920 died
of wounds sustained at home in England

Bertram Harold Clarke (30) 4th March 1921 43rd
Battalion of The Queen's own Cameron
Highlanders of Canada died from wounds



Detailed Case Studies



LEST WE FORGET

Laurence Carlton

Born: 4th May 1892

Enlisted: August 1914

Died: 9th August 1915 (aged 22) in service at Gallipoli

Served as a Private in the 40th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps.

Born in London, joined DHSB for his education.

Shot through the heart whilst attending a soldier at Gallipoli - possibly Battle of Sari Bir (6-10 August 1915 or The Battle of Russell's Top 7 August 1915).

Mentioned in Despatches.

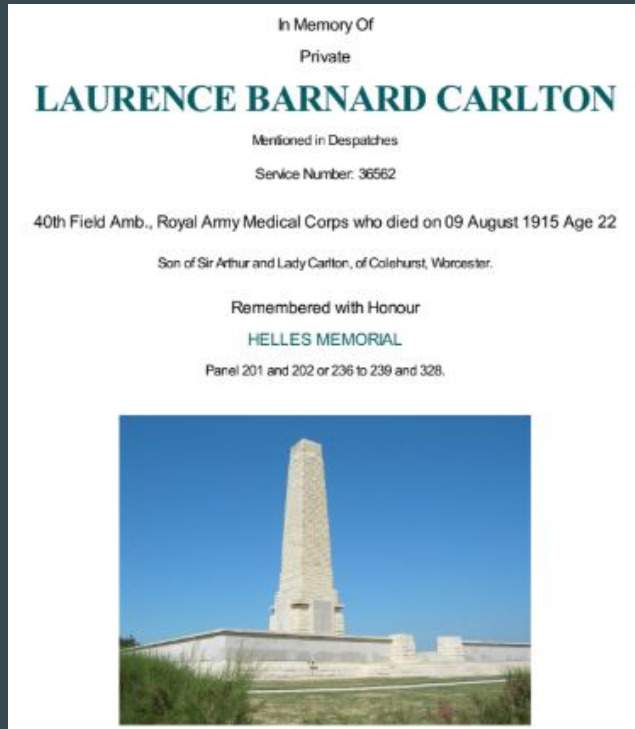


Private Laurence
Carlton
Source:
Remember the
Fallen

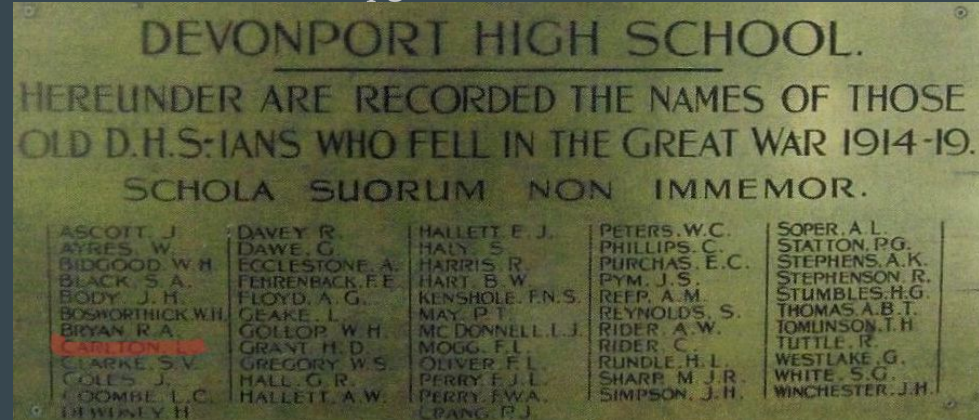


Laurence Carlton cont'd.

Devonport High School Roll of Honour
Source: DHSB @ 125 pg 21



Helles Memorial, Turkey
Source: Commonwealth War
Grave Commission



Memorial at
Worcester
Cathedral parents
were Sir Arthur
and Lady Carlton
of Colehurst,
Worcester.
Source: Find a
Grave

before

before

before

before

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William Howard Bosworthwick cont'd.

Son of William John and
Phaebie Bosworthwick, 8
Stopford Place, Stoke,
Added to grave stone of
William John and Phaebie
Bosworthwick in Weston
Mill Cemetery, Plymouth.

On Roll of Honour in St
Michael's Devonport.

In Memory Of
Second Lieutenant

WILLIAM HOWARD BOSWORTHICK


1st/5th Bn., Devonshire Regiment who died on 07 November 1918 Age 19

Son of William John and Phaebie Bosworthick, of 8, Stopford Place, Stoke, Devonport.

Remembered with Honour

CABARET-ROUGE BRITISH CEMETERY, SOUCHEZ

XXXI. A 32.



Buried at Cabaret Rouge British Cemetery,
Souchez, France (xxx1. A(plot).32(grave)).
Source: Commonwealth War Grave
Commission

INTERDEPARTMENTAL
GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM

REPORT No. 1 SCHEDULE No. 456

PLACE OF BURIAL: CABARET-ROUGE BRITISH CEMETERY, SOUCHEZ.

Map Reference: Sheet 44/45/46/47/48

The following are listed here:-

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank	Date of Death	Other Details	Grave No.
1/5 Devons		WILLIAM HOWARD BOSWORTHICK	2nd Lt	7.11.18		32
1/5 Devons	70000	UNKNOWN	Private	7.11.18		33
3/4 Yorks	84507	SMITH	1st Lt	7.11.18		34
1/5 Devons	45042	SMITH	Capt	7.11.18		35
8/8 Yorks	70000	UNKNOWN	Private	7.11.18		36
8/8 Yorks	45042	SMITH	Capt	7.11.18		37
8/8 Yorks	70000	UNKNOWN	Private	7.11.18		38
Devonshire Regt.	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	Soldier			39
Devonshire Regt.	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	Soldier			40
Devonshire Regt.	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	Soldier			41
Devonshire Regt.	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	Soldier			42
Devonshire Regt.	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	Soldier			43
Devonshire Regt.	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	Soldier			44
Devonshire Regt.	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	Soldier			45
3/6 N. Staffs Regt.	19001	CLARKE	Private	10.12.18		46
Devonshire Regt.	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	Soldier			47

ENTERED IN THE BOOKS OF THE COMMISSION

Graves Registration Report
Form
Source: Commonwealth War
Grave Commission

Horace Liberty Rundle

Born: 1897 in Polruan, Cornwall

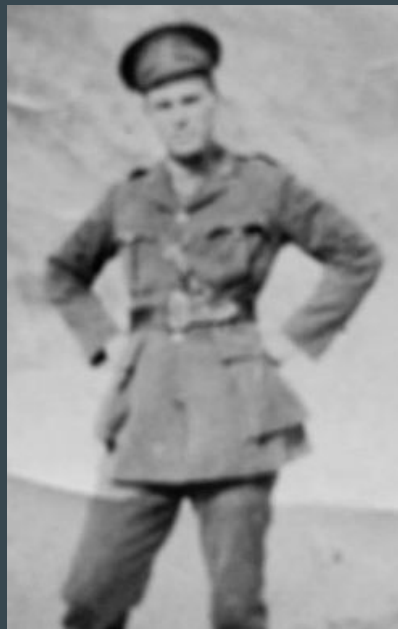
Address whilst at DHSB: 107

Townsend Avenue, Devonport,
Plymouth

Died 7th July 1916

Served as a Second Lieutenant
Devonshire Regiment

Son of William Elias and Hannah
Mary Rundle



Second Lieutenant
Horace Liberty Rundle
Source: IWM Lives of
the First World War



Cap Badge The Devonshire
Regiment



Horace Liberty Rundle cont'd.

Buried at Caterpillar
Cemetery, CWGC,
Cemetery/Memorial,
Longueval, Caterpillar
Cemetery, Longueval,
France, 14 B 7.

The personal inscription on
his grave is 'In God's
keeping always living always
ours.'



Second
Lieutenant
Horace Liberty
Rundle's
Headstone
Source: IWM
Lives of the First
World War

Clifford Heath Rider

Born: Stoke Damerel, 8th of January 1897.

Died: 31st May 1916 at the Battle of Jutland.

Sub Lieutenant served on three different vessels of the Royal Navy during his time in the First World War.

First deployment: HMS Neptune as a Midshipman
15th May 1914 - 14th March 1916.

Second deployment: HMS Neptune acting Sub
Lieutenant and 15th March 1916 - 11th April 1916.

Third and final deployment: HMS Queen Mary
Acting Sub Lieutenant 12th April 1916 - 31st May
1916 when he died.



HMS Queen Mary

Source: IWM Lives of the
First World War



Clifford Heath Rider cont'd.

Commemorated at Portsmouth Naval Memorial.



SUB LIEUTENANT

Barlow A.H.C.
Briggs G.L.C.
Campbell-Cooke A.G.
Cobb T.H.
Gibson -Carmichael A.D.
Henderson R.
Hutchinson W.S.
Johnstone L.E.
Kirkland J.S.
Kitchin G.G.
Paul H.B.
Portal R.S.
Richardson A.J.S.
Rider C.H.
Robertson T.A.W.
Scrimgeour A.
Seymour N.
Tatham W.I.
Tottenham D.F.C.L.
Vance P.H.G.I.
Vernon H.F.

Left Portsmouth
Naval Memorial

Source:

Commonwealth War
Graves Commission

Right Panel Listing
on Memorial

Source:

Commonwealth War
Graves Commission

Cyril Charles Ashwick Daniel

Born: 19 October 1898

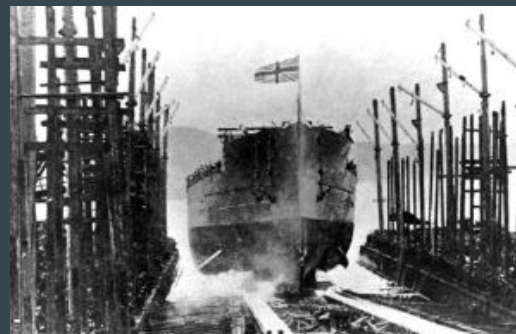
Served in the Royal Flying Corps 1912-1920

Survived World War One



Daniel and others DHSB students were given the day off to watch the launch of HMS Warspite (1913) at Devonport.

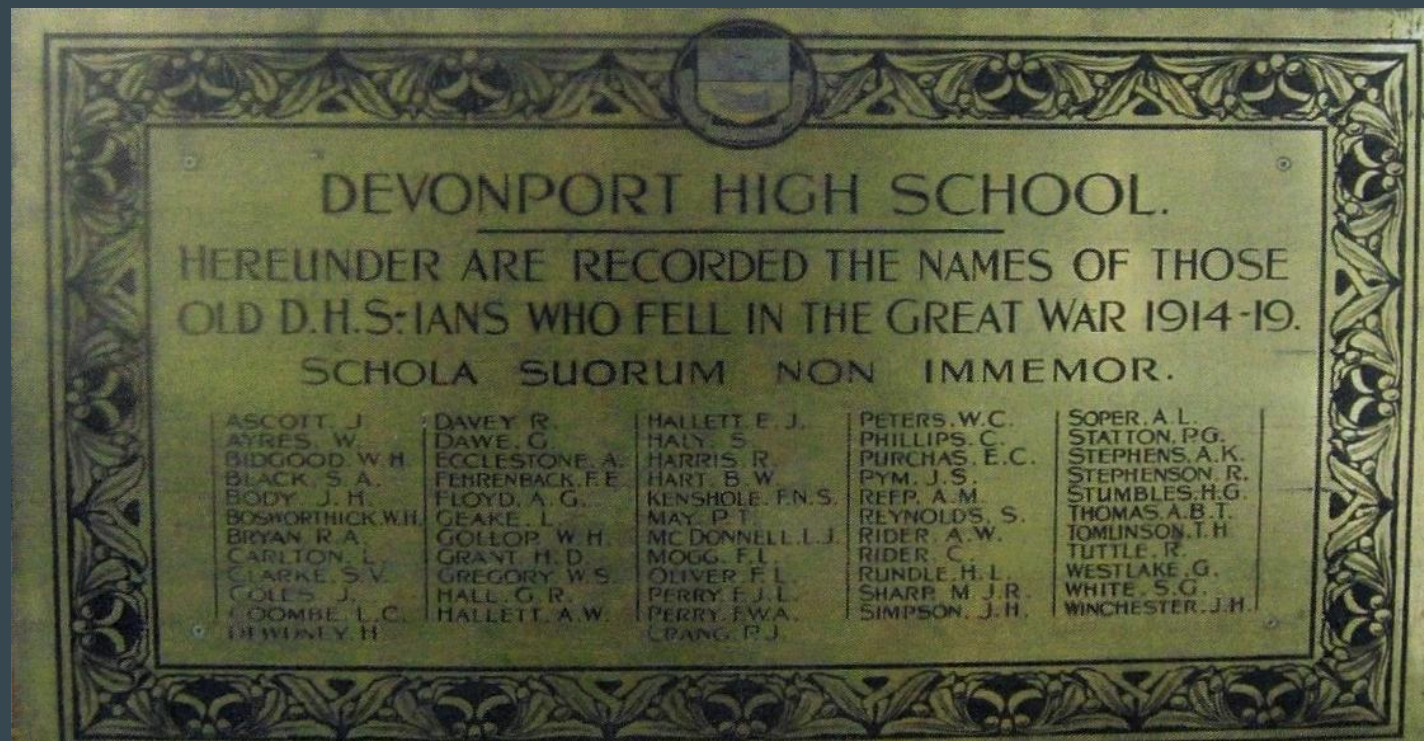
During World War One Daniel served in the Royal Flying Corps as a pilot of RE8 Aeroplanes on Artillery Observation duties scouting out targets for the artillery to bombard. RE8 aeroplanes were reconnaissance and bomber aircraft.



Top RE8 Aeroplanes

Bottom HMS Warspite
launched at Devonport RNB

DHS Roll of Honour - Lest we forget



We are thankful to the following people who have supported this project:

Eve Wilson, Education Trustee, The Western Front Association

Rocky Salmon OBE MA, European Appointee, The Western Front Association

Mrs Kinsella, Head of the DHSB Alumni Association

Mrs Mintoft, Head of History DHSB

Mr Riggs, History Teacher DHSB

Mr Macleod, History and Politics Teacher DHSB

Mr Coombes, Assistant Head Teacher DHSB

Luke Madgett, DHSB History Club member and critical friend

